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TODAY

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

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ALUMNI OUTREACH

Two recent LLU graduates contribute to post-quake health care in Haiti

By James Ponder

A pair of recent Loma Linda University (LLU) graduates faces an onslaught of challenges these days. Since June 2010, Nathan and Amy Lindsey have been in Haiti serving the needs of the people at Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti (HAH), the 70-bed, Adventist Health International-affiliated institution in Port-au-Prince.

Nathan—who graduated with an MPH from the LLU School of Public Health in 2010—is both assistant administrator for the hospital and chief of party for Adventist Health International Services-Haiti. According to hers, Amy, a 2009 graduate of the LLU School of Dentistry's dental hygiene program, functions as volunteer coordinator at HAH.

Jerry Daly, MA, MSLA, associate director of the Global Health Institute at LLU, says the Lindseys are making a substantial contribution.

"We simply could not begin to achieve the level of coordination we

have achieved at the hospital if Nathan and Amy were not there," Mr. Daly insists. "Imagine coordinating the efforts of 20-plus people every day, making sure their basic needs are met, and creating a work environment for them to perform their duties in; it's a huge undertaking. Nathan and Amy are doing a wonderful job.

"I also want to mention their Haitian counterparts at the hospital," Mr. Daly adds. "The Haitian nurses, physicians, technicians, and administrators have endured a lot since January 2010. Many lost family members and friends in the earthquake, and still they come to help every day. It has not been easy for them, and we need to remember these good people in our thoughts and prayers."

The hospital has been in the crosshairs of a vortex of activity aimed at saving the lives and mobility of as many victims as possible following the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that left 230,000 people dead and countless injured on January 12, 2010. Since their

arrival, the Lindseys have been in the middle of everything.

"Things have settled down a little since we first got there," Nathan stated in a recent interview at the offices of the LLU Global Health Institute. At the end of the conversation, the couple flew off for a few days to Amy's family home in Sonora, California, before returning to Haiti. They get one week off every three months, and this one was crowded with meetings, flights, and family time.

"My job takes an average of 12 hours a day, six days a week now," Nathan explains, "unless something unexpected arises like the fire that recently erupted in our main generator room. But in the beginning, it was more than 16 hours a day."

On a typical day, Nathan conducts the morning meeting for the HAH staff and prepares the devotional thought for the day. "I get everybody going," he reports, "then put out fires, metaphorically speaking, check through the hospital's e-mails, work with the administrator,



Although their responsibilities at Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti require them to work 12 hours a day, Nathan and Amy Lindsey still take time to have fun with the children of Haiti. In this photo, Amy clowns for the camera with her pal Mia.

Emilie Clotaire, and respond to whatever needs arise."

He's just getting started. "I also attend United Nations meetings on behalf of the hospital," he says, "go to the cargo company to get shipments moving from the dock, track down supplies from donor organizations, coordinate visiting medical staff, and serve as liaison between the hospital and incoming volunteers. In all these activities, I try to keep the hospital's best interests in mind."

Sometimes that requires a bit of mental gymnastics. "I'm involved with the design and planning of future expansions projects," he adds. "I'm also involved in soliciting funding for our needs; raising money to pay the salaries for doctors and nurses for the next five to six years." He pauses a moment to take stock of other situations he's monitoring for the hospital.

"We're also planning for adequate

water and sewage," he continues, "and we're rebuilding the pediatrics/maternity ward. At the same time, we're improving our physical therapy and rehabilitation lab, which will include a special prosthetics section."

Like Nathan, Amy also wears many hats. "I process applications to make sure volunteers who want to help are both legitimate and licensed," she notes. "I also send information to prospective volunteers, and to donors who want to know what supplies we currently need. Once volunteers get on the ground in Haiti, I introduce them to the staff and orient them to the hospital. I also go on rounds with the medical and nursing staff members and keep track of the census."

In addition, Amy conducts the kitchen count, matching food inventories to the number of patients and volunteers in the hospital every day.

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NEW LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees names new dean to lead Loma Linda University School of Public Health

By Heather Reifsnyder

The Loma Linda University Board of Trustees has named Tricia Pennicook, MD, MPH, as new dean of the LLU School of Public Health.

Dr. Pennicook has served with the School of Public as associate dean for academic affairs since 2007. She replaces David Dyjack, DrPH, who resigned in August to become director of health for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Dr. Pennicook's achievements as academic dean include coordinating the self-study process in preparation for the school's reaccreditation,

leading to the maximum seven-year accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health this past July.

During her three years at the School of Public Health, Dr. Pennicook says she has developed a renewed appreciation for its legacy and mission—and its dedicated leadership, faculty, and students.

"We are a school of world-class distinction, not just because of how we work, but especially because of whom we serve," she says. "It is our honor to help prepare public health professionals for health institutions worldwide, and, because of our heritage, to develop the leaders that

will advance the health ministry work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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Tricia Pennicook, MD, MPH

COLLEAGUES REUNITED

South Korean dental educators visit LLU School of Dentistry

By Doug Hackleman

Two dental educators from Kyung Hee University School of Dentistry in Seoul, South Korea, visited Loma Linda University School of Dentistry on August 24, 2010: its dean, Joon Bong Park, DMD, PhD, and Kyoung-Kyu Choi, PhD, chair, conservative dentistry.

As it happens, Dr. Park was the grade-school classmate and friend of LLU School of Dentistry's Sean Lee, DDS, associate professor of restorative dentistry and director of clinical research at the Center for Dental Research, when they both attended Dong Duk Elementary School, Taegu, South Korea.

Dr. Lee served as translator while hosting the

visits of Drs. Park and Choi with Charles J. Goodacre, DDS, MSD, dean of the LLU School of Dentistry, who introduced them to the school's digital education material.

They discussed the possibility of future collaboration between the two schools. Gregory Mitchell, DDS, director, international dentist program (IDP), provided the visitors with a tour of IDP, its student lab, and clinic, as did Joe Arnett, manager of the school's educational support services.

While Dr. Lee was a second-year dental student at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in 1986, Dr. Joon Park, by then an associate professor at Kyung Pook National University School of Dentistry, was spending a



Dean Joon Bong Park, Mrs. Park, Dean No-Hee Park, and Dr. Sean Lee

year at UCLA as a visiting scholar. There he and Dr. Lee assisted No-Hee Park, DMD, PhD, professor of pharmacology, UCLA School of Dentistry, in his research on oral herpes.

The three dentists were reunited over dinner at the home of Dr. No-Hee Park, now dean of the UCLA School of Dentistry. It was a 24-year personal and professional reunion.

MEMORIES OF ELLEN WHITE

Soon-to-be centenarian remembers LLU visionary Ellen White

By Richard Weismeyer

One of the few living individuals who personally knew Loma Linda University founder Ellen G. White—and also happens to be a granddaughter—will celebrate her 100th birthday on October 10, 2010. Her son, Larry Miller, MD, is a 1970 graduate of the School of Medicine.

Mable Robinson Miller, who lives in Paradise, California, looks forward to celebrating her 100th birthday with her family and loved ones.

Mrs. Miller is the only living descendent of Ellen White who was alive before Mrs. White's death in 1915. She was just 5 years old when her grandmother died in Elmshaven in 1915.

Many memories of her days with Mrs. White are chronicled in a book she wrote, titled *Grandma Ellen and Me*, which was published in 2000 by Pacific Press. Mrs. Miller wrote the book to help children see Mrs. White's personal character.

One of Mable's many vivid remembrances of Mrs. White was a buggy ride with her friend

who she lovingly called Grandma Ellen. Shortly after dinner, Mable heard the horse's hooves on the gravel road. Mable's face and hands were clean and she was swinging on the front gate of their home, waiting for Grandma Ellen.

The horse and buggy rig stopped in front of Mable's home and Mable's mother lifted her up into the buggy. Grandma Ellen put Mable between Grandma and Mable's Aunt Sara so she would not fall out of the wagon. Grandma Ellen put her arm around Mable and gave her a little squeeze.

"I still remember how cozy and warm I felt, all tucked in next to her," Mable remembers to this day.

The ride took them around Glass Mountain. That was the name of the small mountain next to Mable's house. Grandma Ellen wanted to see the new family and welcome them to the neighborhood. As they drove around the neighborhood, many of the people living in the area waved to them. Some of the neighbors did not know Ellen White by name, but only as the "the little old lady who loved Jesus."

Mable's father, Dores Robinson, was the grandson of William Farnsworth, who is recog-

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Like Nathan, she also tries to help out whenever people have questions or need assistance.

When asked how many LLU and Adventist Health International volunteers have helped out in Haiti since the earthquake, Amy places the number at more than 500. "We used to get 50 volunteers a week," she says. "Now it's slowed down some, but we're averaging 20 a week right now. I don't know if LLU and AHI are officially the largest source of volunteers in all of

Haiti, but it wouldn't surprise me a bit."

The couple reports that the biggest challenges facing HAH right now—and for a long time into the future—are financial. "Definitely financial," they respond in unison.

Nathan explains that several Haitian hospitals had to permanently close down due to financial difficulties. "Haiti's economy was a disaster before the earthquake," he says. "Pre-quake Haiti had an unemployment rate of 80 percent;

things are much worse now. Hardly anyone has a job, so almost none of our patients can pay for their care.

"Sarah Ryley, a freelance writer, came down and wrote three or four perceptive articles on Haiti for the *Huffington Post* and CNN," he goes on. "You can Google her to read what she said. Basically, she concluded that following the huge international response to the Haitian crisis, Haiti is awash in supplies, but there's no money to pay salaries."

The financial shortfalls reached desperate levels when the government of Haiti mandated, shortly after the quake, that all medical services performed on the island must be offered free of charge for three months. It subsequently extended the mandate for another three months—which meant, of course, that health care providers must meet the burden of salaries, supplies, and operating costs without any payment from patients. It was a recipe for fiscal failure, a fact which was dramatically underscored when the nation's largest and best equipped hospital—Centre de Diagnostique et de Traitement Integre (CDTI)—was forced recently to shut down for lack of funds.

Meanwhile, Nathan reports that HAH is surviving by the proverbial skin of its teeth. "The Haitian Union of Seventh-day Adventists helped out with salaries for the first three months post-quake," he offers. "Currently, we have a contract with the U.S. Embassy to provide health screenings for people who need a visa. That's become our biggest source of income. We'll also be setting

up a private-pay clinic for people who can afford to pay for their care."

"It is a blessing to have Nathan and Amy working at our hospital in Haiti," Mr. Daly affirms. "When you hear about the challenges they face every day—many of them seem so simple, yet so insurmountable—you get a sense for the type of people they are, and how blessed we are to have them there."

"Sometimes the needs feel overwhelming," Amy acknowledges. "A lot of this will never be resolved until Jesus comes." Nathan agrees. "Nothing will ever fix what is wrong with Haiti," he observes. "That's true of many of the world's problems. They're the results of sin."

"The road to full recovery in Haiti will be long and hard," Mr. Daly asserts, "but what is being done at our hospital through Nathan, Amy, our Haitian colleagues, and an army of volunteers brings hope and healing to those most in need."

Nathan hints that when their one-year term expires in June, the couple may sign on for another year or two. But given the daunting problems Haiti faces, it seems especially exemplary that the couple is eager and willing—at this crucial early stage of their careers—to devote so much of themselves to helping the people of Haiti rebuild their crucial health care infrastructure.

"I know what it's like to be helped in life," Nathan says. "I want to give back."

To donate to the Haiti project, go to <www.lluglobal.com/haitidonation>.



Nathan and Amy Lindsey, a pair of Loma Linda University (LLU) graduates who have dedicated a year of their lives to helping the people of Haiti recover from the devastating earthquake that rocked that country in January 2010, recently stopped by the LLU Global Health Institute. Nathan hints that the couple may extend their stay in Haiti by "another year or two" when their current term expires in June 2011.

UNIVERSITY PIONEER REMEMBERED

Loma Linda University School of Public Health mourns death of founding dean

By Heather Reifsnyder

Mervyn G. Hardinge, MD, DrPH, PhD, died September 20, 2010, at the age of 96. He was instrumental in the organization and founding of the LLU School of Public Health and served as its first dean when it opened in 1967. He led the school through its first decade until his retirement in the late 1970s.

A physician who graduated from the College of Medical Evangelists (now LLU), Dr. Hardinge also earned doctorates in public health from Harvard University and pharmacology from Stanford University.

Dr. Hardinge's service to Loma Linda University began 24 years prior the School of Public Health's founding. He began teaching anatomy and a course in medical evangelism, discovering his true passion was in the classroom. His later accomplishments included serving as professor and chair of the department of pharmacology in the School of Medicine from 1957 to 1967.

"Those who, like myself, were fortunate enough to take a class from him, know he was a master

teacher," says Fred Hardinge, son of Dr. Hardinge.

The LLU Board of Trustees voted in 1964 to reorganize and establish a division of public health, with Mervyn Hardinge as its director, as the first step toward a new School of Public Health. He recruited the school's first faculty using two essential criteria: 1) spiritual dedication to the mission of the school and 2) scientific qualifications. During its first few months, in 1967, the new school received full accreditation from the American Public Health Association and was inducted into the Association of Schools of Public Health.

"I feel no one else could have pulled the School of Public Health together as well as Mervyn Hardinge did," says P. William Dysinger, MD, who was associate dean for academic affairs under Dr. Hardinge. "His extraordinary scholastic background, with three earned doctorates—MD from Loma Linda, DrPH from Harvard in nutrition, and the PhD from Stanford in pharmacology—earned him academic respect, and that, together with his ability to work well with the Church from his background



Mervyn Hardinge, MD, DrPH, PhD

in ministerial training and experience, was truly unique and much needed in the beginnings."

Adds Dr. Dysinger, "Despite many obstacles, Mervyn had the vision and courage to do what perhaps no other could do in pulling together a qualified faculty and obtaining accreditation at the first try."

Dr. Hardinge was also a respected researcher. His studies at Harvard comparing vegetarian and non-vegetarian diets began to chip away at the prevailing belief among nutritionists in the mid-20th century that a meatless diet was inferior.

He published his results with Dr. Fredrick Stare, chair of the Harvard nutrition department, and—among other notable discoveries—was the first to demonstrate the vegetarian diet was suitable for adults, pregnant women, and adolescents. In 1999, the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* recognized the value of his pioneering research findings.

Dr. Hardinge published more than 60 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

He also wrote hundreds of articles for Seventh-day Adventist publications and several books. In 1972, he became an ordained minister—the most cherished moment of his career, says his son Fred.

People who knew Dr. Hardinge describe him as reliable, a gentleman, a rich story-teller, humorous, a nature-lover, adventurous, loving, humble, and a friend of Jesus.

Dr. Hardinge was born and raised of British parents in India, where his father was a surveyor. He later studied theology and business at Newbold College outside London, but soon after, felt God was impressing him to go into medicine.

Mervyn Hardinge married his wife, Margaret, while a medical student in 1939. She preceded him in death by two years. He is survived by two children, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

RESEARCH SUBJECTS SOUGHT

LLU seeks children with chronic abdominal pain for study

Contributed report

The Loma Linda University Pediatric Wholistic Medicine Clinic and pediatric gastroenterology department are starting a study to determine how well holistic treatments work for irritable bowel syndrome. They are recruiting children between the ages of 8-17 years with irritable bowel syndrome or chronic abdominal pain.

The Pediatric Wholistic Medicine Clinic uses a comprehensive holistic approach to treat many children and adults with abdominal pain. The program uses diet, supplements,

probiotics, and stress reduction to help free patients from their pain.

The study will involve four months of periodic visits to the clinic and a one-year follow-up telephone call to see how the child is doing. Based on past experience, most children with chronic abdominal pain seem to respond to the treatment in less time than the four-month window; however, this cannot be guaranteed.

To learn more, please call (909) 558-4993 or go to <www.wholistickids.org>. Some participant costs may be incurred, but the clinic is dedicated to keeping them nominal.

Board of Trustees names new dean to lead Loma Linda University School of Public Health ...

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"We are living in exciting and challenging times for public health," Dr. Pennicook adds, citing issues such as the increase in diseases directly related to lifestyle choices and the reappearance of infectious diseases that scientists had believed were under control.

She also is concerned with the widening gap between those who have and those who don't—and its impact on their lives and health.

However, Dr. Pennicook believes the School of Public Health does more than educate qualified professionals who are passionate about solving such issues. The school also exists, she says, to explore life's most ponderous questions with students and offer them a place to deepen their relationship with God.

Dr. Pennicook has a long history of career experience in public health and medicine. For

five years prior to her arrival at LLU, she worked in Montemorelos, Mexico.

At Universidad de Montemorelos, she served as coordinator of the School of Public Health and professor in the Schools of Medicine and Dentistry. She worked to infect medical students with passion for public health.

She was also coordinator of the preventive medicine and epidemiology department at Hospital La Carlota and attending physician at the hospital's clinic for students at Universidad de Montemorelos.

Dr. Pennicook also worked for five years for her country of origin—Costa Rica—in the Ministry of Health. Her positions there included state epidemiologist, state health director for the Limón province, and advisor to the minister of health for Costa Rica's Atlantic region.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Siu-Fun Wong, PharmD, joins LLU School of Pharmacy faculty

Contributed report

A new professor has joined the faculty in the School of Pharmacy. Siu-Fun Wong, PharmD, started July 1, 2010, and will be a member of the pharmacotherapy and outcomes science department.

Dr. Wong received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in 1982, and her doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Pharmacy in 1986. She completed a clinical residency at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Medical Center, where she stayed to develop the oncology pharmacy program and the Infusion Center Pharmacy at the Chao Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Wong joined Western University in 1997 where she was a tenured professor of pharmacy practice until her departure to Loma Linda University. She is also a clinical professor of medicine at UCI College of Medicine. Dr. Wong has assumed leadership roles in various national professional organizations. She was named the leader of pharmaceutical sciences at Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) in 2008 and has been the founding chair of the SWOG pharmaceutical sciences committee since 1994. She is also a member of the NAPLEX review committee (NRC) at the National Association of Board of Pharmacy since 2003.

Prior to coming to LLU, Dr. Wong's clinical site was at a medical oncology private practice office in Orange County, where she collaborates with her medical colleagues to conduct

clinical research, patient consultations, and drug therapy consultations. Dr. Wong initiates and develops research protocols to evaluate innovative treatments and undertakes studies to optimize the care of oncology patients in her practice site and at SWOG. She hopes to continue her practice activities at LLU Cancer Center.

Dr. Wong lives in Orange County with her family and Reba, her greyhound ex-racer. She enjoys adventurous travel, hiking, music, and reading. Her goal in the near future is to visit the remaining continents that she has not been to—South America, Antarctica, and Australia.



Siu-Fun Wong, PharmD

SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNUS

Michael Rettig: From Vietnam to the Silver Star

By Nathan Lang

Editor's note: Michael Rettig is a 1975 graduate of the Loma Linda University School of Nursing. Mr. Rettig received special recognition during the 2010 School of Nursing alumni banquet.

A soldier called out, "Alright, Michael. Let's get going, Doc. The helicopter's waiting." Across the runway, Michael Rettig marched to the helicopter, the propeller wind blowing against him, puffing up his uniform, the motor sound blaring. "Back to the field!" shouted the brigadier general from the helicopter, welcoming Michael.

Michael was returning to his unit, the unit of men he was with before his injury, before being stationed back at the base camp. This was his last week in Vietnam.

The helicopter ascended at a gradual angle past the scattered buildings of the base camp and up over greener regions, green dots that were trees.

My experience as a combat medic and conscientious objector in Vietnam definitely influenced my career path. In 1975, I graduated with a bachelor's of science in nursing from Loma Linda University School of Nursing. I'm a proud Loma Linda graduate. I'm a dedicated Adventist, and I'm devoted to my God.

Michael walked along the streets of downtown Spokane, Washington, to the local draft board. It was August 1967. He had flunked school. He knew he didn't have much direction in life, so he entered the draft board office and asked a representative to put his name at the top of the draft list.

That September, Michael returned to the draft board. He received a physical examination and then took an oath, alongside other draftees, to join the United States Army. It was an induction service. He stepped forward, he raised his right hand, and he took the oath.

I was, and still am, a skilled nurse. I had a good attitude and I would put myself into my work, every job I got. But soon after getting out into the work force, things weren't going well. I was losing jobs. People didn't want to work with me. I don't know whether this was because I had served in the Army.

Basic training started later that month in Texas.



Michael Rettig, a 1975 LLU School of Nursing graduate, served in Vietnam during the 1960s.

Everyone woke up around five. The trainees would arrange in squads, and the cadre would try to break them down. The cadre yelled in Michael's face, because they wanted the civilian out of Michael.

Michael ran the confidence course. On the confidence course, everyone went as fast as they could. Right foot, left foot, jump, bars, hand over hand. Bars swinging over water, Michael fell into the water. He grabbed on and fell again. Swinging over water on a bar to grab another bar. He fell again.

Five months later, Michael, valedictorian of his basic training class, landed in Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam.

He walked off the plane with other soldiers, and more soldiers who were waiting walked onto the plane past Michael's group. As they passed Michael's group, the boarding soldiers said hello, shook the other soldiers' hands, and departed for home.

During my career struggles in the late '70s, I received a phone call from Veterans Affairs. They asked if I would be part of a panel and help by answering a few questions. They were planning to



Mr. Rettig gives a wide grin along with some fellow classmates following the 2010 School of Nursing alumni banquet.

set up a place called a veterans center.

By April, Michael had left the base camp for his field assignment. He was stationed on a barge in a fire support base of barges that were towed by a Navy boat. He was part of the ninth infantry division, nicknamed "Old Reliables." They came under sniper fire.

They shot back, and more shots continued to

fire from the brush. A soldier, on another barge thirty yards from Michael, was hit. Michael moved low to the ground as he jumped down from his barge.

From the barges to land, there were wooden steps across the water. With fast, cautious paces, Michael stepped toward the soldier's barge. Cracking sniper fire, with steps laying

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September 30

International Translators Day

To Make Man Whole by respecting the many voices of humankind!

Loma Linda University Medical Center appreciates the work of its language facilitators whose contributions allow patients and providers to bridge the communication gap... by assisting our patients to obtain equal access to healthcare and by working with the medical team to provide culturally sensitive patient care.

Did you know...

- ❖ Since 2004 our interpreters have provided **19,470 hours** of interpretation
- ❖ Provided written translation of more than **1,850 pages** of vital documents
- ❖ Modes of interpretation currently offered to our patients: face to face, telephone interpretation, video conferencing, and sign language for hearing impaired patients
- ❖ If you can read the Bible in your language... thank a Translator!

Please remind our patients and their families that:

- ✓ Interpreter services are available at NO cost to them
- ✓ On-site Spanish interpreters available Monday-Sunday 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- ✓ Sign Language interpreter services are available upon request

For more information, please contact Language Services at **Pager 3715 - Ext. 42445**

PHILANTHROPY

High tea and high fashion at Seheult Estate Gardens in Redlands

By James Ponder

Tea & Trinkets, an afternoon of high tea and high fashion to benefit Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 10, 2010, at the elegant Seheult Estate Gardens, 11362 Walnut Street in Redlands.

The event is sponsored by the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild.

According to guild president Catherine Grinnan, Tea & Trinkets offers an afternoon of food, fashion, and fun.

"This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to get together and watch a fashion show, do some shopping, enjoy a delicious high tea, and raise awareness for the life-saving work of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital," Ms. Grinnan observes. "We are so excited to be able

to host it at the Seheult Estate Gardens."

The fashion show will feature clothing and accessories—ranging from the very casual to the very formal—presented by The Carved Horse of San Juan Capistrano. Other vendors whose items will be on sale at the event include Bijou Jewelry, Fabulous Fifties Stuff, Frugal Frigate, Haven Home Collectibles, Kissui Baby and Children, Vickie Ludder's Jewelry, and more.

Currently the schedule calls for boutique shopping from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. The high tea begins at 4:00 p.m. and the fashion show runs from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Reservations are available at \$85 per person and premier tables are available for \$1,000, but Ms. Grinnan warns that interested parties should call soon before the event reaches capacity.

For reservations or additional information, contact the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild at (909) 558-3154.

The Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild was founded in 1994 to raise awareness and support for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. Loma Linda University Children's Hospital provides life-saving care for critically ill or injured children.

Michael Rettig: From Vietnam to the Silver Star ...

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low, Michael climbed onto the barge and tended the soldier's leg wound.

Michael had first felt like keeping low, not leaving his barge. He had been sighing hard, his heart throbbing in his chest. Then he had jumped off his barge, and gone to the soldier.

After the fire quit, a helicopter picked up the soldier. The medical report returned to Michael; it said the bullet in the leg had an exploding tip, just a movement away from being triggered.

The veterans center opened in 1979. I was the fifth person through those doors when it opened. I was tired of losing jobs. I wanted to figure out why I was losing jobs, so I went to group counseling and individual counseling with a PhD psychologist.

The ground rumbled. It was rolling. Bomb flashes in the mid-morning sky. It was the second time Michael saw them. And he felt them. And he saw the tree debris fly and a huge dust cloud hovering. All at once there were many. And the bombs were from his side, from US B-52s, but he could see them from far away. And he could hear them, like thunder, just roaring from far away.

In his unit, he was the only conscientious objector. The soldiers would tease him. They would get close to his face and mutter nasty things, and Michael would pray. He prayed to Christ that he would act like Christ, and that they would be touched by this. And even so, despite their acts, Michael always felt part of

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Leigh Anderson, Valerie Lewis, and Catherine Grinnan recently got together at Ms. Anderson's home in Redlands to try out some tea and pastries in advance of Tea & Trinkets, an annual fundraising event for the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild. The event will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2010, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the elegant Seheult Estate Gardens, 11362 Walnut Street in Redlands. Reservations are available by calling (909) 558-3154.

Tea & Trinkets

Featuring fashions by
The Carved Horse of San Juan Capistrano
Seheult Estate Gardens, Redlands

October 10, 2010
4:00 – 7:00 pm

For more information, call
909-558-3154

Big Hearts for Little Hearts
Loma Linda Guild
benefiting

PERSPECTIVE

Warmest greetings from Loma Linda

By James Ponder

Loma Linda isn't usually mentioned in the same breath as Death Valley, but when this year's weather conditions are the subject of discussion, the analogy doesn't seem so farfetched. Bluntly put, 2010 has been a scorcher around here!

For starters, on July 16, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that 2010 is the hottest year on record worldwide. To prove the point, an all-time new heat record of 113 degrees Fahrenheit was set in downtown Los Angeles on September 27. In Loma Linda, the temperature that day registered 116 F. It was, as many locals exclaimed, "just plain too hot!"

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the excessive heat results from a ridge of high pressure over the West, which keeps the Pacific Ocean's moisturizing and cooling influences at bay.

However, the high-pressure ridge was somewhere else at the beginning of summer. Throughout most of June and continuing into early July, it felt like an icebox, not a heat wave in this part of the world. In fact, the NWS reported that an 84-year-old record for coolest July daytime high was broken on Friday, July 9, when the mercury at Los Angeles International Airport rose to an anemic 67 F and stayed put. The previous record July daytime low was set in 1926.

The cooler-than-usual weather the first part of the month is known as June Gloom. Also called May Gray (when it starts too early) or Summer Bummer (when it stays too long), June Gloom occurs when an offshore marine layer of stratus

or stratocumulus clouds moves inland, draping the region under a blanket of fog and drizzle. The phenomenon occurs along the west coasts of continents in such geographically diverse

locations as Australia, Namibia, Peru, and Southern California.

As if May Gray, June Gloom, and Summer Bummer weren't enough, July Fry assaulted the region the second half of the month. As temperatures soared to well over 100 and humidity

approached sauna proportions, Southern Californians headed to beaches and mountains to find relief.

There wasn't any in Loma Linda: the Anderson Street thermometer registered 110

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A monsoon thunderhead drifts over the campus of Loma Linda University the afternoon of Thursday, August 26, 2010. With several news agencies identifying this as the warmest year on record worldwide, 2010 is living up to its reputation in Loma Linda where temperature and humidity measurements held steady at uncomfortable levels for most of the summer and into the early days of fall.

Michael Rettig: From Vietnam to the Silver Star ...

Continued from page 5

them, because they had a roundabout way of making him feel part of them.

They treated me different than others, and I was let go from that nursing position. But at a hospice, I did well, and I would do private duty, one-on-one in homes. People eventually gave recommendations for me. At a later point, the jobs stopped coming. I applied for a veterans administration position. I couldn't do well at that.

In August, Michael's unit moved to land. At their first post, an accident occurred. They shot off their howitzer barrel gun, and its projectile failed to launch. The projectile exploded in the chamber, blowing up the howitzer. Michael tended the soldiers wounded. One lost an arm from the blast. Another was about to die, he was so close to death. Michael stabilized the dying soldier, joining him on the helicopter.

Although the soldier lived, he wouldn't have without the helicopter. Michael remained distressed. He went through a phase of depression. Other soldiers reached out to him, and soon he regained stamina for combat.

At the veterans center, they told me I had post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD. And they were compensating for PTSD. But the first time I went, they told me I had PTSD but I had jobs, so I didn't get any compensation. I made an appeal. In the early '80s, I received a 10 percent rating for compensation.

Michael, with half his unit, would stay awake 24 hours. The soldiers would then sleep six hours, stay awake eighteen hours, sleep, and repeat. They were on guard duty while the others slept, all except Michael manning their guns.

It was dark and silent. A huge explosion burst into flames. Loud explosions, Katyusha rocket fire. The rockets penetrated, then they exploded. A fire started, and it grew and continued. Twenty feet away in black night, walls of flames. The unit's ammunition bunker was hit, its rounds bursting. Katyusha fire kept hitting.

After the first explosion, before the flames in night, a soldier stood still. He was frozen in the flame light. Michael approached him and called out, "Let's get out of here!" The soldier said nothing. He just stood paralyzed in shock, the shadows flickering over him. Michael fastened his hands onto the soldier's shoulders, guiding him to a bunker.

Two more explosions hit as Michael guided the soldier. Everyone soon awoke, but Michael's unit, and all six units at the post, didn't fire one shot that night.

Michael didn't know how it happened that way. Michael's captain didn't understand why it happened that way.

I kept losing jobs. I put in an increase for PTSD

compensation. It was the late '80s. They turned me down again. I turned to a service officer, and appealed again with him as my representative. We got an interview. I was up to thirty percent compensation.

The units had just finished chow, along either side of a road. Three gun positions were manned on one side of the road, three on the other. The sun was still up, when fifty yards away a round of mortar hit.

The second hit was closer. A soldier was sent flying into a rice paddy. He wasn't noticed—so many others were wounded. Michael kept hustling from one wounded soldier to the next, to each gun position. There were about fifteen wounded.

Machine gun fire, sniper fire, two mortar positions. Mortars kept landing, shot from a barrel out in balls landing on the ground and exploding in shrapnel pieces of metal cutting through the air.

"Doc!" cried a wounded soldier, "after you get done with me, you need attention." Michael looked down to his sleeve. Covered in blood, his uniform dripping blood to the ground. Michael kept hustling from one soldier to the next, tending himself last.

"Doc!" called out a wounded soldier, "Doc, you treated me, but I thought we would pick up

pieces of you. That mortar landed right behind you. I thought you were mutilated, Doc. I thought we'd pick up pieces of you."

The units performed counter-mortar positions. U.S. Huey Cobra helicopters arrived, aiding the attack. After the firing, with almost everyone evacuated, a nose count was done before finding the soldier in the rice paddy.

He was sinking in and out of consciousness. It was dry season. If it were wet season, he would've drowned in the paddy. Michael recognized the soldier as the same one who was frozen before the flames.

Michael was sent to the base camp because of his injury. Shrapnel metal had shot through his arm, just missing an artery, bone, and nerve. Tending the wound, medics put a metal rod through his arm and cut it open. The wound was left open for three days to prevent infection; he would receive the Purple Heart for the wound.

In 1996, I was initially denied fifty percent compensation. But the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under Clinton, Jesse Brown, heard about my case. He was coming to Portland and planned to meet me, but at the last minute, it didn't work out. Still, he got my file and increased me to fifty percent.

Later, I met him and took pictures with him. He was a Marine Vietnam Veteran, and he told me that if I ever needed total one hundred percent

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degrees Fahrenheit at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, and temperatures remained above 100 degrees most of the rest of July.

August initially brought a few days of cooler weather before returning to high heat and humidity.

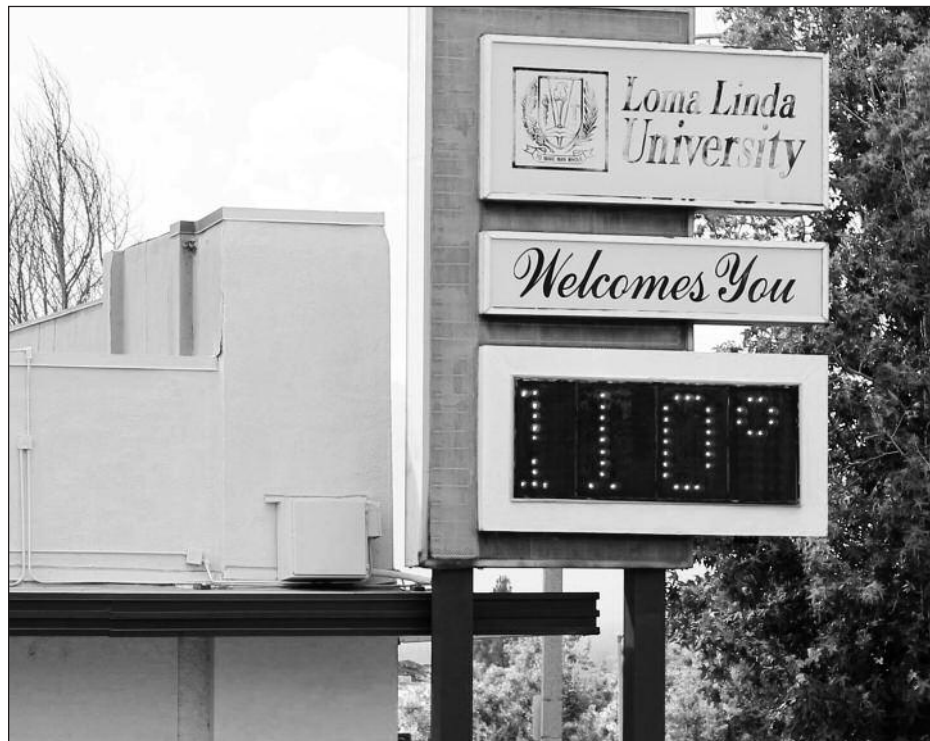
Despite another much-needed cooling trend the final week of that month, temperatures again exceeded 100 the first few days of September.

That, apparently, was merely the prelude—or more appropriately, the warm-up—to the record highs of September 27.

As this edition of *Today* goes to press, the forecast for early October calls for highs in the mid-90s followed by a drop to the mid-80s as the high-pressure ridge finally moves on.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2010's weather legacy of hot tamale highs and drenching humidity is the legacy of the El Niño weather system. The El Niño disruption in the ocean-atmosphere system of the tropical Pacific brings chaotic weather around the world. On the average, El Niño conditions only occur every five years, but can recur in as few as three or as many as seven years.

Like it or not, 2010 just happens to be one of those years.



The thermometer on Anderson Street in Loma Linda makes one thing perfectly clear: 2010 has been one hot summer in Loma Linda! The photo was taken a few minutes after 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2010.

Continued from previous page
disability, I should be sure to get social security along with it. I didn't know I could get that before.

On December 8, Michael returned to the field. Christmas was his last day there before recuperation. The unit had a Butterball turkey dinner, and each soldier received a shot of Jack Daniel's whiskey. Michael gave his shot to a friend.

The next day, Michael headed to base camp. He then took R&R, rest and recuperation—or, as some soldiers called it, intoxication and intercourse. But Michael spent his R&R his own way, during a weeklong visit to Sydney, Australia.

He was booked in what seemed a luxurious hotel. He didn't have bathing facilities in Vietnam, so he took lots of showers. In the morning he would take a shower, and then again after lunch and once again before bed.

Later that January, Michael returned to base camp, shortly before Tet 1969. Throughout that February, close to midnight, the base camp would suffer intense mortar fire, night after night.

Michael worked with the base camp doctor to treat soldiers wounded from the attacks. During the attacks, one soldier became frenzied. He said he didn't want to go to the front lines. The soldier got drunk and started firing off weapons in protest. The doctor gave Michael orders to inject the soldier with a medication, and the

soldier was set at ease. The night attacks continued.

Michael was ordered to stay in the room alongside the soldier. Mortar hit at night. The doctor ran. Michael guided the sedated soldier to a bunker.

The soldier never saw the front lines again. He received counseling, but couldn't recover. He was sent home.

Things crashed down again in 1998. And I had been in the counseling system pretty much continually since 1980. I decided to go for one hundred percent compensation. They turned me down. I met with my service officer again. He remembered me, and got me one hundred percent veterans compensation. At the same time, I applied for social security disability.

That March, Michael called his brother, and told him not to tell their parents that he was coming home on an earlier flight. He wanted to surprise them.

Michael saw his dad open the door. And he saw for a moment his dad looking as if he was casually wondering who could be at the door. Then the dad saw Michael, and cried. Tears dropped down his big smile. Michael, six feet two inches, weighed 145 pounds.

The next week, his dad called the Spokane newspaper, and reporters interviewed Michael. He was featured on the cover of the Friday issue

FORMER ADMINISTRATOR

Former LLU vice president for financial affairs passes away

Contributed report

Former vice president for financial affairs Jack W. Blacker died at Linda Valley Villa on September 27, 2010.

He started life in a cold and bleak Canadian village 97 years ago, but achieved an enviable 40 years of service as a church administrator, publishing house expert, and a financial wizard.

Pastor Blacker, in his 97th year, lived a peaceful retirement life in a small but snug apartment in a local senior center in Loma Linda, the Linda Valley Villa.

During his active career, Pastor Blacker served not only in the United States and Canada, but also in two overseas countries, always in the employ of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

Earlier in his career, he responded to an invitation of his Church's international headquarters in Washington, D.C., to go overseas. He and his wife, Etta, first went to the Philippines, but soon were shifted to Singapore, where he served as a finance officer of the church for the Pacific Rim region. He has always prized that section of his life when he was able to work overseas.

When the Blackers returned from their overseas service, they went directly to North Dakota, where he was secretary-treasurer of the church's conference. Two years later he transferred to the state of Iowa and then to northern California. He was then tapped to become secretary-treasurer of the Church's

Pacific Union Conference in Glendale, California, a post he held for nine years,

His experience was needed in the state of Washington when the church headquarters in Seattle asked him to become president of the Washington Conference, a post he held until he became general manager of Pacific Press Publishing Association and moved to Mountain View, California.

It was at a time when Loma Linda University needed a strong hand in financial matters that the university's board asked him to become vice president for financial affairs, a post he held for the next five years. He retired from active full-time service in 1977. He and his wife lived comfortably in this area until Etta's death in 2008. It was then that the veteran church official decided to move into the local senior center.



Jack W. Blacker

and in the Sunday commentary. He went to his home church Saturday, and his parents surprised him with a large potluck at the home of family friends. They talked war stories among other topics. Michael shared his stories as if letting go of them and, with these people, moving on.

I continued rehab for my PTSD. I had one hundred percent compensation, but I didn't want to just sit around. I told them my educational background and asked if I could be supported to study legal nursing. The representative said it was a good idea, so I went to Portland Community College for a two-year associate's degree. I've worked as a legal nurse consultant, not a full-time employee, ever since. And now I also have my own business through Amway Global. I'm really enjoying that.

After finishing his two-year tour in the Army, Michael got a job at St. Luke's Hospital in Spokane as a respiratory therapist. He attended community college and excelled in his courses. He knew he wanted to be a nurse, and he wanted to attend Loma Linda.

One day after work, he walked past a girl at the hospital. She said she needed a ride, and he accepted. On the way home, she found out he was a veteran. She jeered. "Chauvinist," she said, "You baby-killer!"

Michael explained he was a combat medic and conscientious objector. "Sure," she rebutted, "you patched up all the young men killing the

Vietnamese!" Michael, calm, dropped her off at her destination and drove home.

No matter how cerebral you get or what you experience, there's always an emotional side. And when you have feelings about something, you have to deal with the issues. I'm a cerebral person, but I have feelings too that I wear on my sleeve.

I am proud that I have PTSD as a side effect of my Vietnam experience. To me, it shows how committed I was over there with the help of my Lord. As a Seventh-day Adventist medic, I brought the Lord with me to the battlefield, to provide this world an example. That was my purpose, and it's beautiful.

The helicopter landed. Michael stepped out with the brigadier general. The doctor had told him he would be given awards that day.

Then Michael saw the familiar faces. He was back in the field a final day with the ninth infantry division, the "Old Reliables," and with them, here, the brigadier general of his division pinned on him the Bronze Medal of Valor, for his acts the night of the ammunition bunker fire, and the Silver Star, for his acts along the roadside under mortar fire.

He said, "Son, you're making quite a haul here today."

When you get that from someone like that, it's something you never forget. It's heartwarming, and it's deep.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Fall Into Reading kicks off the autumn season at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

Contributed report

Fall is in the air when children once again go back to school. To celebrate this time of year, the members of Big Hearts for Little Hearts (BHLH) Guild at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital decorated the lobby on September 15, 2010, and welcomed patients and youthful visitors to their annual Fall Into Reading event.

Large WELCOME lettering decorated the main desk in the lobby entryway and greeted visitors as they passed through back-to-school decals on the sliding entry doors. The autumn/back-to-school theme was evident in other vignettes around the lobby.

Red tablecloths and back-to school center-

pieces covered two large round tables set up in the lobby to assist in creative endeavors. Lots of paper, stickers, and craft items were spread around on the brightly decorated tables where patients and visitors could sit and create fun projects.

Several BHLH members greeted the smiling and excited young patients as the child life specialists brought them down from upstairs to take advantage of a fun outing in the hospital lobby. Also in attendance were many grateful parents and a group of LLU Children's Hospital volunteers who helped the children assemble some very creative projects.

Missing from the day's fun was the hospital's very own mascot, Luke the Lion, who was unavailable for the event as he was on another

special assignment. Though missing in person, Luke's face smiled from the cover of his Fall Into Reading with Luke the Lion Activity Book that each child received. Luke's activity book contained coloring pages, a word scramble, word searches, and a find the schoolhouse maze. Several kids chose to color a page or two.

More than a dozen youthful hospital patients enjoyed their time at the event in the lobby.

Before they left, the patients selected books from a cart to read later in their hospital rooms. Several youngsters took extra books to share with their friends upstairs who weren't able to enjoy the event.

Many thanks go to BHLH Guild board member Bonnie Adama, who purchases with donated funds the books that BHLH shares with hospital patients and visiting children, as well as to the LLU Children's Hospital volunteers, child life specialists, and BHLH Guild members who helped to make Fall Into Reading a happy and successful event for the children of LLU Children's Hospital.



Youthful patients and visitors found plenty of colorful art supplies awaiting them when they attended the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Guild's annual Fall Into Reading event on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH). The children colored, cut, pasted and created a variety of art projects with help from members of the Guild and LLU Children's Hospital volunteers.

Soon-to-be centenarian remembers Ellen White ...

Continued from page 2

nized as the first Seventh-day Adventist. Mable chronicled his life in the book *William and His Twenty Two* [children].

Mable was first and foremost an elementary school teacher for the Seventh-day Adventist denomination for nearly 40 years. It was here that her life's impact was felt most.

She routinely hears from students she has influenced over the years, many of whom give her the credit for their success in life. The late Jerry Pettis, a United States congressman from California's 33rd congressional district, credited her with stabilizing his life, which enabled him to pursue the many things he accomplished.

Mable deeply cared about and loved each one of her students—never playing favorites—and always coming to the aid of the child in need.

In the early 1970s, she was part of a special committee formed by the General Conference department of education to revise the Bible textbooks for the first four elementary grades. Their aim was to show children the true character of God and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Mable's vivid memories of many past church

leaders and her clear view of Ellen White, as well as her considerable literary gifts, made a huge contribution to the project.

As Mable celebrates her 100th birthday, she still sparkles the brightest when she is in the presence of children, especially her six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



Mable Miller
... remembers Grandma White



ELLEN G. WHITE AND HER FAMILY IN 1913

Sister White, about two years before her death in 1915, is surrounded by her family. Her son Willie and his wife May sit at the right in the picture. Willie's two daughters by his first wife Mary are at the left. Ella is seated and Mabel stands behind her. They are with their husbands. Ella married Dores Robinson. Mabel's husband was Wilfred Workman. Two of Ella's children, Virgil and Mabel Robinson, are seated near her. Four of May and Elder W. C. White's five children are in the picture. The twins, Henry and Herbert, are standing together. In the foreground are Grace and her younger brother Arthur White. Baby Francis must have been having a nap when the picture was taken.

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